3 0144 00266064 5



Michael Baker Jr., Inc. A report on the recreational survey of Allegheny, Beaver







### A REPORT

ON THE

RECREATIONAL SURVEY

OF

ALLEGHENY, BEAVER AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

MARCH 1945

AUTHORIZED BY

THE PENNSYLVANIA POST-WAR PLANNING COMMISSION

Hunnah M. Durham,

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Prepared By

MICHLEL BAKER, JR.
THE BAKER ENGINEERS
CONSULTING ENGINEERS, PLANNERS, SURVEYORS
ROCHESTER, PA.

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

# I - Λ Brief History of Parks and Recreation in Allegheny, Beaver and Washington Counties

- a. Pioneer Recreation
- b. State Land Reservations "to the use of the State"
- c. Park and Recreation Movement in Pittsburgh
- d. Country Parks.
- e. Organized Camping.

# II - The Geography of the Tri-County Area

- a. Location and area
- b. Terrain
- c. Rivers
- d. Agriculture
- e. Natural Resources
- f. Climate

# III - The People of the Tri-County /rea

- a. Population Pennsy vania
- b. Population Pittsburgh Metropolitan Area
- c. Population Tri-County Aroa
- d. Population Alleghony County
- e. Population Pittsburgh
- f. Population Beaver County
- g. Population Washington County

. La company of the second second

www.

.

the state of the s

A Company of the Company

S ....

29 Carlot Carlot March Carlot Carlot

The state of the state of the state of the

The Annual State of the Control of t

The second of th

The state of the s

Committee of the second second

and the second of the second of the second

- h. Population Donsitios
- i. Population Ethnic Composition

# IV - Existing Rocreational Areas

Table I - Rocreational Areas in Allegheny County

a. Analysis

Table II - Recreational Areas in Beaver County

b. Analysis

Table III - Recreational Areas in Washington County

c. Analysis

Summary Table

d. Analysis

Table IV - Organized Camps

- V Potontial Regional Parks
  - a. McConnell's Mills
  - b. Ardon Downs
  - c. Brady's Run
  - d. Raccoon Crock Recreational Demonstration Area

### VI - Illustrations

Figure I - Spot Map of Population Distribution

Figure II - General Devolopment Plan - Raccoon Crook Recreational Domonstration Area

Figure III - Existing and proposed Country Parks and and Rocroational Areas, Allegheny, Beaver and Table V Washington Counties

### VII - Logislation

1. Digost of Ponnsylvania Laws portaining to Public Recreation 1944 by The State Planning Board Department of Commerce A STATE OF THE STA

3

. .

1

.

the second of the second of A to the control of the section of the control of the section of the

### HISTORY OF RECREATION

IN

# ALLECHENY, BEAVER AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES

### Pioneor Rocroation

During pionoor days in the tri-counties, wealth and leisure were scarce, and recreation was largely combined with gaining a practical end. Early forms of recreation, such as frolics for timber cutting, house raising, corn husking or quilting, combined useful and necessary work with the opportunity to mingle with one's neighbors. Recreation was chiefly a matter of individual, not governmental, concern.

### State Land Reservations

At the close of the Revolutionary War, the State reserved from the Depreciation Lands west of the Alleghenies two tracts of land of 3000 acres each, one at the mouth of the Allegheny River, and one in Beaver County lying on each side of the mouth of the Beaver River, including Ft. McIntosh. Reservations were made expressly "to the use of the State". It was intended to devote the land to necessary public uses such as church, cometery, and jail sites, and streets and alleys to be common highways forever."

It is worthy of note that houses of public worship and burial places were considered to be public uses at that time.

In the Borough of Beaver the four blocks at the center of town and the four blocks at the extreme corners of town are romnants of the 3000 acre State reservation. The foresight of the Logislature in directing that certain parcels of land be reserved

### 1 00 0

#### 

the state of the s

forever for public use is exemplified in the attractiveness and spaciousness of Beaver after a century and a half of community development.

The 3000 acre State reservation in Allogheny County was a strip of land a mile wide on the north bank of the Ohio and Allogheny Rivers and extending up and down the rivers, opposite Fort Pitt, as far as necessary to include the 3000 acres. Provision was made for a Commons within the reserved tract for pasturage and burials.

When the Borough of Allegheny (annoxed by Pittsburgh in 1907) was created by Act of Logislature in 1787, the town survey established the Commons at 102 acres. The four corner lets at the intersection of Federal and Ohio Streets were reserved for a market house, a jail, an educational institution and an open square. The one-acre tract occupied by the Western Theological Sominary is a part of the original commons, for which the Seminary pays a ground rental of \$2100 per year. A 50-foot railroad right-of-way was granted in 1850 at a ground rental of \$300. At the present time, 84 of the original 102 acre Commons remain for park use.

As the Allegheny community grow, the demand for pasturage decreased, and the Commons became a dumping ground. In 1867 a commission was formed to make recommendations for the use of the Commons. The recommendations for development of the Commons as a public park could not be carried out until the Legislature passed the Common Ground Improvement Act of 1867. Bids were received from various landscape architects for development plans for the park, and a contract was awarded to Grant and Mitchell of New York City.

\* And Application Application (15) Application (15)

The cost of the work performed amounted to \$300,000. This was the beginning of the park and recreation development program in the Pittsburgh area. Unfortunately, the precedent set by the State in reserving land for the public use was not followed in establishment of all communities. The result is that many of the urban centers in the tri-county area are inadequately provided with parks and public squares for the recreation of the people and the crystallization of the neighborhood units.

# The Park and Recreation Movement - Pittsburgh

During the period from 1870 to 1890, Pittsburgh became industrialized and congestion spread over the city. Easy access to open tracts of land decreased. Urban residents surrounded themselves with dirt, and noise, and man-made contraptions with which they had to live to work. The desire for public parks grew. The need was recognized by Edward M. Bigelow, Director of the Department of Public Works, who in 1889 submitted to Council a carefully planned park development scheme. Immediate results of this scheme were shown in setting aside the ground around Herron Hill and Highland Park Reservoirs for public park purposes. In the same year Schenley Park was given to the City. Other areas have been acquired by purchase and gift during the intervening years, so that now the City owns 1957 acres of park land. Recreation programs on park, school and other public properties are under the direction of the Pittsburgh Bureau of Recreation.

# County Parks

The entrance of cities of the tri-county area into the field of recreation has been described above. Allegheny County also has taken progressive steps to meet the needs of the urban

•

# and the second s

population by providing two large country parks. In 1927, the County Commissioners passed a resolution setting aside the first land for park development and providing for a \$1,000,000 bond issue therefore. Lands for North and South parks were purchased at a cost of\$454,365.81. AD epartment of Parks was organized and recreational areas, picnic groves, athletic fields, golf courses and swimming pools were developed.

North Park contains 2260 acres and South Park contains

1985 acres. They include among their recreational facilities swimming pools and bathhouses, a beat house, an 18 hole golf course, 29

tennis courts, Scout cabins, dance pavilions, pienic areas, ball
diamonds, athletic fields and wild life areas. The outstanding
annual event in North Park is the Outboard Meter Beat Regatta.

Attendance at the Regatta totals about a quarter of a million persons.
The outstanding annual event at South Park is the five day County Fair.
There are 42 buildings included in the fairgrounds. Attendance usually exceeds a million persons. The total attendance of the two parks in normal years averages four to five million persons.

Due to the popularity of the North and South Parks and the intensity of use, it is expected that additional facilities must be provided. If the undeveloped areas of these parks are developed, the increasing needs probably could be met. If further development of the two existing parks is made, however, then additional adjacent lands must be secured for woodland and wild life areas. Further development of these two parks would also increase the traffic congestion between the parks and the city, thereby partially defeating the pleasures of a trip to the park.

# Organized Camping

Organized camping originated during the latter part of the previous century as private attempts to take children from congested city conditions and to give them a taste of life in the fresh air of woods and country. The idea was accepted and grow, so that soon a great variety of private, somi-private and public agencies were conducting camps. During and following the World War I, camping was influenced by military regimentation in layout of structures and in programs. The popularity of the camping movement is shown, however, by the figures of the Playground and Recreation Association that in 1929 more than 6000 organized camps operated with an attendance of close to a million. Camping has combined recreation and education in guided programs for the creative use of leisure time in outdoor environments.

Organized camping is a well established recreational and educational experience for children, youth and adults in the tricounty area. The importance of camping in these counties is shown by the 1944 report on camping by the Federation of Social Agencies of Pittsburgh and Allogheny County. This report lists a total of 36 resident camps serving the Pittsburgh area, 16 day camps, and 5 organizations providing short-term and troop camping. Many organized camps other than those reported by the Federation of Social Agencies of Pittsburgh and Allogheny Counties are used by residents of the three counties. (See Table IV.)

### Organized Camp Domonstration Areas

The impetus given to the development of parks, and of recreational programs, during the recent depression decade is

well known to all. Something new appeared during this decade, however, when the National Park Service initiated a program of organized camp design and construction on 46 Recreational Demonstration Areas throughout the country. These are a are large tracts of land in locations readily accessible to congested urban areas. Their primary purpose is to provide facilities for demonstration of non-profit organized camping. In this regard, they are not public parks in the usual sense. In addition to their primary purpose, however, they offer recreational facilities to individuals and families desiring to spend a day pienicking, fishing, beating or hiking; and to groups who wish to camp overnight or over a weekend.

Ponnsylvania is in the enviable position of having five of these areas located and developed within her boundaries. The names of these areas, and localities are as follows:

- a. Raccoon Creek Recreational Demonstration Area, 27 miles west of Pittsburgh, located Within Beaver County:
- b. French Crock Recreational Demonstration Area, near Reading; (New Hopewell Village National Historic Site);
- c. Hickory Run Recreational Demonstration Area, near Wilkes-Barre and Scranton;
- d. Blue Knob Recreational Demonstration Area, near Johnstown and Altoona:
- c. Laurel Hill Recreational Demonstration Area, south of Johnstown and east of Pittsburgh.

The enabling act for establishment of the Recreational Demonstration Areas was the National Industrial Recovery Act. The areas were transferred to the National Park Service from the Resettlement Administration by Executive Order No.7496, dated November 14, 1936. Legislation for transfer of the Recreational

Demonstration Areas to the States was contained in Public Law No.594, dated June 6, 1942.

Many of the Recreational Demonstration Areas have been transferred to the States in accordance with Public Law No.594.

South Carolina may be cited as an outstanding example of State interest in the organized camp areas and programs. Even before the Act authorizing transfer of the areas to the States was passed,

South Carolina was leasing and operating the two Recreational Demonstration Areas in that State through the Bureau of State Parks of the Forestry Division. Transfer of the two areas to the State was accomplished seen after the Act was passed.



# Location and Area

Allegheny, Beaver and Washington Counties are in the Western tier of counties, bordering on the Ohio State Line. The total area of the three counties is 2028 square miles, which is 4½ per cent of the total area of Pennsylvania. Allegheny County contains 730 square miles, Beaver County contains 441 square miles and Washington County contains 857 square miles.

# The Terrain

The Alleghony, Beaver, Washington tri-county area, of which Pittsburgh is the focal point, is the gateway to the vast interior drainage system of the United States. The rivers of this drainage system mould the physical pattern of the tri-county region into deeply carved valleys. Between the steep slopes of the main valleys are rolling agricultural lands.

# The Rivers

Alloghony Plateau, where herizontal, sedimentary rocks have been carved into digitate patterns by rivers and streams. Valleys are narrow and steepsided, and rolling uplands lie 500 to 600 feet above river bettems. The highest point in the three counties is Scenery Hill in Washington County with an elevation of 1486 feet. Significant river elevations are 703 feet above sea level at the confluence of the Allogheny and Monongahela Rivers in Pittsburgh; 750 feet at the entry of the Monongahela to Washington County; 783 feet at the confluence of the Kiškiminitas River with the Allogheny



at Freeport; 668 feet at the confluence of the Beaver River with the Ohio at Rochester, and 763 feet, at the confluence of the Shonange and Mahoning Rivers south of New Castle, where the Beaver River is formed.

Losser streams which dissect the Allegheny Plateau in the tri-counties include Termile Crock in Washington County, which flows southeasterly into the Monongahela; the Youghingheny River, which joins the Monongahela at McKeespert in southeastern Allegheny County; Chartiers Crock, which rises in Washington County and flows northeastward through Allegheny County to the Ohio River in Pittsburgh; and Raccoon Crock, which rises in Washington County and flows northerly through Beaver County to the Ohio River near Kobuta. The entire Ohio River system in Pennsylvania drains over one third of the area of the Commonwealth.

The Ohio, Allegheny, and Monongahela Rivers are all improved with dams, locks and dredged channels for modern barge navigation, and great quantities of coal, sand and gravel are transported thereon. Although for many years these rivers were used for passenger traffic, thus use has been abandoned. Little recreational use is made of the major rivers due to riverside industrial developments and stream pollution. Only the small tributary streams are free from pollution by industrial and mine waste and sewage disposal.

### Agriculture

Pionoor travolors found the tri-county area covered with a vast forest of birch, maple, beech, hemlock and oak. The pioneers were primarily interested in establishing homes. The forests were an economic resource for use in construction of homes and for timbers for shipment to older communities.

They were a hindrance to the growing of crops, and a shelter for unfriendly Indians and beasts of prey. Consequently, the pioneers removed the forests from lands suitable for farming and from their homesites, but the steep-sided valleys which were not adapted to farming remain in woodland. The total of forested land now in the three counties amounts to only 250,141 acres, which is less than 12 per cent of the area of the three counties.

The agricultural economy which flourished during the 19th century depleted the rich soil. Many farms became unprofitable and were either abandoned or reduced to submarginal standards. Although the tri-counties contain 18% of the population of Pennsylvania, they contain only  $5\frac{1}{2}\%$  percent of the farms, and less than three percent of the population of the three counties is rural farm population.

The rural areas adjacont to Pittsburgh are now operated as part-time and truck farms, bordered on practically all sides by the Pittsburgh dairy region. The agriculture of Washington County includes a specialty of fine wool sheep.

### Natural Resources - Industry

Dovelopment of extensive deposits of bituminous coal, petroleum and natural gas has completely altered the tri-county area from an agricultural to a highly industrial region.

The Pittsburgh area is the greatest iron and steel manufacturing center in the world. Other important industries include chemical and allied products in Allegheny and Beaver Counties; food and kindred products, and paper and printing industries in Allegheny County; clay, glass and stone products in Beaver and Washington Counties; and mine and quarry products in Washington County. Water, rail and highway facilities have been developed for efficient

and economical transportation of raw materials and finished products.

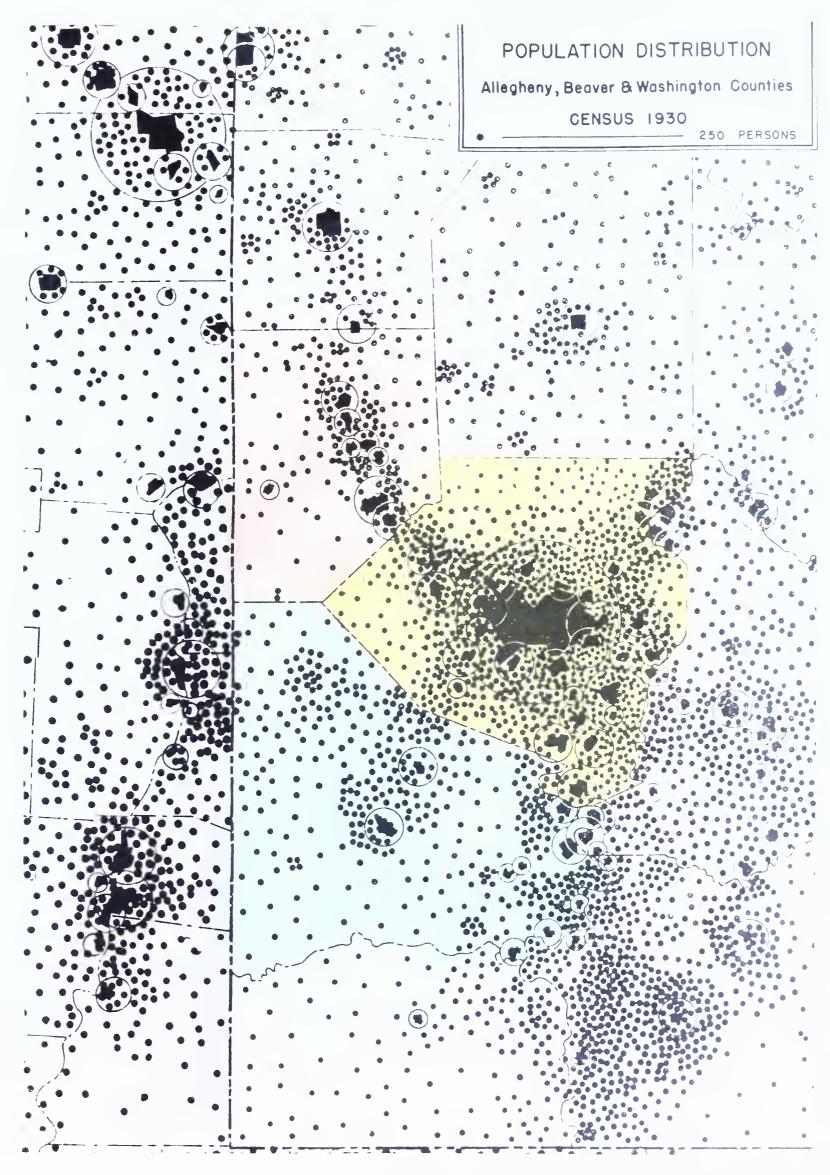
# Climate

The climate of the tri-county area is subject to sudden changes and wide extremes of heat and cold. Summer temperatures of near a hundred degrees are often registered, and winter temperatures below zero are frequent. Snow fall may be heavy, but it is usually so temporary that special provisions for winter sports areas are not considered to be justified. Records of precipitation over a period of years show that the average monthly precipitation is rather constant, with monthly averages between two and three inches in the winter months, and between three and four inches in the summer months. A high average of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches is recorded for July. The annual precipitation averages about thirty seven and a half inches, in an average of 150 days during the year.

Air pollution in the form of smog is an important adverse factor in living conditions in the tri-county area. Smog is an undesirable by-product of industrial developments and community congestion in the river valleys. Changes of air temperature near large bodies of water cause fog. Smoke facilitates condensation when temperature is lowered and the combination of fog and smoke results in "smog". Smog is prevalent in the tri-county river valleys during almost a quarter of the year. The damaging offects of air pollution are reflected in the health of the residents, in limitation of park and recreational and other outdoor activities in the smog afflicted areas, in reduction of sunlight, and in public safety through reduced vision

Areas which have ideal conditions for recreation are those having light rainfall during the recreational seasons, 60 percent or more of the total possible winter sunshine, low humidity, and average temperatures between 50 and 60 degrees. Unfortunately, Pittsburgh and many other regions of dense populations are not advantageously situated in this regard. The Pittsburgh area receives only 20 to 30 per cent of the total possible winter sunshine and temperatures are extreme. Special consideration must be given, therefore, to location and development of parks in the vicinity of Pittsburgh which will provide the residents the greatest possible opportunity for recreation in sunshine and clean air.







#### POPULATION FACTS

## Population - Ponnsylvania

The population of Pennsylvania in 1940 was 9,900,180.

The Commonwealth ranks second among all of the states in total population, and sixth in density with 219.8 persons per square mile. The population increase of 2.8 per cent during the decade from 1930 to 1940 was a considerable reduction from the 10.5 per cent increase during the previous decade. This declining rate of increase is not peculiar to Pennsylvania, but was common ever the New England, Middle Atlantic and North Central States due to a generally declining birthrate, restricted immigration and unfavorable employment conditions in the areas during this period.

## Population - Pittsburgh Metropolitan Area

three counties totaled 1,779,145 persons in 1940, the population of the Pittsburgh metropolitan district was 1,994,060 persons in portions of seven counties. The metropolitan district includes, with the central city, all adjacent and contiguous minor civil divisions or incorporated places having a population of 150 or more persons per square mile. The district is not a political unit. It is an area which includes all the thickly settled territory in and around a group of cities. It is a more or less integrated area with common economic, social and often administrative interests. This condition is true of recreational requirements for large parks. The entire metropolitan population will use accessible country parks and reservations, regardless of political boundaries.

•

## Population - Tri-County

The 1,779,145 population of the three counties in 1940, was 18 per cent of the population of the Commonwealth. The population of the separate counties for 1930 and 1940 was as follows:

	1930	1940
Allegheny	1,374,410	1,411,539
Washington	204,802	210,852
Beaver	149,062	156,754

The number of minor civil divisions in the three counties and their total populations are as follows:

County	Cities	Boroughs	1st Class Townships
Allegheny	4-764,088	69-394,661	23-157,262
Beaver	1- 17,098	27- 99,225	3- 5,401
Washington	2- 34,991	32- 80,386	1- 5,635
Total	7-816,177	128-574,272	27-168,298

It is important to keep in mind the fact that a borough may be larger than a city as in the case of the Borough of Aliquippa with a population of 27,023, while the City of Beaver Falls has a population of only 17,098. Furthermore, the population of adjacent borought may be greater and denser than that of a neighboring city. For example, the density of the Borough of Ambridge is 15,493 persons per square mile, while the density of Beaver Falls is 9536 persons square mile.

## Population - Allegheny County

During the century from 1840 to 1940, the population of Allegheny County grew from 81,235 to 1,411,539 persons, - more than seventeen times the earlier size. In spite of this phenomenal increase, the overall trend is one of a diminishing rate of increase.

r ·

The percent of increase in the century has fallen from a high of 70.2 percent in the decade from 1840-50, to 2.7 percent from 1930-40, as shown below:

1840

1850 - 70.2 percent increase

1860 - 29.3 " "

1870 - 46.6 " "

1880 - 35.7 " "

1890 - 55.1 "

1900 - 40.4 "

1910 - 31.4 " "

1920 - 16.4 " "

1930 - 15.9 "

1940 - 2.7 "

It has been estimated by various statistical organizations that the civilian and military population of Allegheny County in November 1943 was approximately 1,450,000. Although it is obvious that the boom days of settlement and industrial expansion have passed, the opportunity and obligation are presented to provide amenities through parks and other cultural accommodations for richer living in the future.

#### Population - Pittsburgh

The population of Pittsburgh was stationary during the decade from 1930 to 1940, considering territorial annexation. The U. S. Census records an increase for the City from 669,817 in 1930 to 671,659 in 1940, or a numerical increase of 1842 persons. The fact is, however, that areas annexed to the city during this decade had a population of 1843 persons in 1930 which equals the population increases recorded by the Census.

4.5

P. Dec.

It is obvious, therefore, that all of the population increases for Allegheny County occurred in that portion of the County which is outside the Pittsburgh City limits. Numerically, the increase was 37,130 persons, or 5.27 per cent. Further study of the population shows that the increase occurred chiefly in the areas to the south and east of Pittsburgh.

## Population - Beaver County

Beaver County was established as a separate political unit in 1800. At that time the population of the County was 5776. This number was doubled by 1810, and by 1820 the population was 15,340. During the first quarter of the nineteenth century, Beaver County was an agricultural community. During the second quarter of the century, the trend began toward the present position of the County as third largest industrial producer in the Commonwealth.

The population of Beaver County was 56,432 in 1900. During the years between 1900 and 1940 there was a three-fold increase, making a total of 156,754 persons in 1940. The period of greatest increase was during the World War I decade. The population for the census years since 1900 is as follows:

1900 - 56,432

1910 - 78,353

1920 - 111,621

1930 - 149,062

1940 - 156,754

It is estimated that the population of Beaver County in 1943 was 181,830, - the great increase during these three years being due to immigration of workers for employment in the production of war goods.

en the second of the second of

and the second of the second o

•

. . .

• 12

.

# Population - Washington County

Washington County was formed in 1781 from Westmoroland County. During the first half contury of its existence, the county was chiefly agricultural. With the growth of industry following the development of the excellent coal fields, the County became industrialized. The growth of population in recent years is as follows:

1900 - 92,181

1910 - 143,680

1920 - 188,992

1930 - 204,802

1940 - 210,852

## Population - Densities

The population density of Allegheny County in 1940 was 1933.6 which may be contrasted with a density of 219.8 persons per square mile for Pennsylvania. The density in Beaver County was 355.5 persons per square mile, and in Washington County the density was 246 persons per square mile.

The average 1940 density in Pittsburgh of land used for residential purposes was 75.68 persons per acre. Actually, the density ranges from a high of 367.1 persons per residential acre to a low of 1.6 persons. There were seven census tracts in Pittsburgh according to the 1940 census which had densities of ever 300 persons per acre. This condition should be contrasted with the maximum multiple family density recommended in a theoretically perfect city of 57 persons per developed residential acre, and with 105.9 persons per developed multiple family residential acre in 16 American cities which were studied in recent years.

^,

•

The need for city and country parks to furnish "breathing space" for the congested residential and industrial areas is obvious.

It is noteworthy, that the substandard areas of Pittsburgh lost population, and that there was a movement toward more desirable residential portions of the city and county.

## Population - Ethnic Composition

The foreign-born population of the tri-counties decreased from 288,596 to 229,710 persons in the decade between 1930 and 1940.

The total decrease was 58,886 persons or 20 per cent. The foreign born population was 12.9 percent of the total tri-county population in 1940, whereas it was 16.7 percent in 1930, a decline of 3.8 per cent. The dominant nationalities include Italian (42,601); Polish (27,099); Austrian (22,761); Czechoslovak (21,487); German (19,407); Yugo-slav (13,966); English (12,237) and Russian (12,060). No different or separate recreational areas are indicated by the nationalities represented in the tri-county population, but national folk characteristics may be used in recreational programs with distinct advantage.

The negro population of the three counties increased by 6,103 persons between 1930 and 1940. There was an increase in Pittsburgh itself of 7,233 negroes in the decade (13.1 per cent) but a total increase in Allegheny County of 6.734 (8.1 per cent), indicating a movement of negroes to the City, and a decrease in the County outside the city limits of 499 persons. There was an increase of only 528 negroes in Beaver County, and a decrease of 1160 negroes in Washington County.

The rural farm population of the three counties was 52,308 persons in 1940, which is somewhat less than three per cent of the total population. This number represents a small increase of farm population during the decade which may be considered a product of the depression years, and without long-range significance.

.

#### EXISTING RECREATIONAL AREAS

# Purpose and Method of Survey

It is the purpose of this survey to determine the classification, distribution and adequacy of municipally owned recreational areas which are serving the people of Allegheny, Beaver and Washington Counties. The basic data for this report were secured by a census of each of the counties, cities, boroughs, first class townships and first, second and third class school districts in the three counties. The census was conducted by interview in each of the counties, cities and first and second class school districts. It was conducted by mail questionnaire in the boroughs, first class townships and third class school districts. Data pertaining to school recreational areas have been included in the summary of facilities for the municipality. Significant data were not received for the boroughs and first class townships having populations of less than 5,000; these groups, therefore, have not been included in the summary tables.

#### Classification and Definition of Recreational Areas

For the purposes of this study, the following classifications and definitions of recreational areas have been used:

<u>Playground</u>— An area intended to provide active recreation for children of elementary and junior high school age, 5 to 14 years old, inclusive. The area should be from 3 to 7 acres in size.

<u>Playfield</u>—An area intended to provide active recreation for young people, 15 to 24 years old, inclusive. It should be from 10 to 25 acres in size.

termination of the state of the

Neighborhood Park - An area chiefly devoted to passive recreation and serving a neighborhood. A neighborhood park takes advantage of a scenic feature, if possible, such as a valley, woodland, stream or hill. A playground or playfield may be included within the area. A neighborhood park often contains as much as 50 acres.

Country Park- A large area for the preservation of broad expanses of natural scenery with development of selected areas for active recreation by large groups of people. Country parks are usually 50 or more acres in size. They may be located within a municipality, but are often in the adjacent rural area.

Organized Camp Area- A vacation area for organized groups. The tract should be composed of interesting terrain, fair forest cover, sufficient space for insulation between camps and outside disturbances, and flowing water suitable for recreational uses.

#### Ratio of Park Acreage to Population

One of the most commonly accepted standards for park acreage to population is one acre of park for each 100 persons in the community. This ratio is used as the "yardstick" in this report. It is obviously impossible to establish fixed standards for parks in cities and boroughs due to differences in population and density, variations in topography, distribution of population and unequal oconomic status of the people in different communities.

It is often desirable to adjust the ratio of park acreage to population according to the size of the community. For example, the parks of a community of 5,000 to 10,000 persons might be studied on the ratio of an acre for each 75 persons, whereas the parks of a community of 500,000 might be studied on the ratio of an acre for each

in the more congested centers. The ratio of one acre of park for each 100 persons has been adopted for use in this tri-county study as representing the minimum requirement applicable to the congested urban centers therein. Although politically 49 separate municipalities are included in this analysis, in reality the analysis covers an urban area of a million and a half population centering at Pittsburgh, and sending tentacles of population congestion up the Allegheny to

Tarentum, up the Monengahela to Centerville, up Chartiers Crock to

Washington and down the Chie to Beaver Falls and Midland. This urban population is living in established communities where park land can be made available only by major operations on the physical city due to existing structural congestion and physical barriers. It is felt that the ratio of one acre of park for each 100 persons in this restricted and channeled urban area is both reasonably idealistic and realistic.

# Proportion of Park Acreage in Different Classifications

The total acreage in parks is not the only standard for judging the adequacy of the parks in a community. Sufficient acreage improperly distributed among the various park classifications, or acreage located beyond accessibility of the potential patrons, may provide inadequately for park needs. The special relationship of individual park units in each municipality can be studied only with the benefit of knowledge of the local conditions such as topography, residential areas, density and street patterns. Distribution of park acreage among the various classifications can be generalized, however, to the extent of designating about 30 per cent of the total park requirement of the community for active recreational use for



children and youth in close proximity to their homes. One half or more of this 30 per cent should be developed for playfield use. Neighborhood parks, country parks, in-town rest parks, memorial areas, public squares, circles and plazas constitute the remaining park acreage.

Desirable as they are in themselves, park areas are not the ultimate goal in community recreational services. Park acros are a necessary means to achieve an end. The goal is to provide well rounded recreational programs which will encourage children, youth and adults of the community in creative use of leisure time in guided programs combining recreation and education. It has been found that few municipalities having less than 10,000 population conduct an adequate recreational program. This fortile field of service devolves, therefore, upon some more comprehensive unit of government.

# Recreational Areas in Alleghony County

Table I shows the number and area of playgrounds, playfields, neighborhood and country parks which serve the 35 municipalities of Allegheny County having populations in excess of 5,000 persons. It will be noted that there are four cities included in the list, namely Pittsburgh, McKeesport, Duquesne, Clairton. The population of the metropolitan city of Pittsburgh was 671,659 in 1940. The population of the other three cities and the cleven boroughs in the County having populations of over 10,000 was 269,379 in 1940. Twenty Allegheny County boroughs are in 5 to 10 thousand population class and have a total population of 144,438. Thus, population in municipalities of over 5,000 population in Allegheny County totals 1,085,476 persons, which is 77 per cent of the population of the County.

Playgrounds and Playfields: The 35 municipalities of Allogheny County with populations in excess of 5,000 should provide about 1300 acros of childrens playgrounds and about 1960 acros of playfields for the total of 3260 acros desirable according to minimum standards. Actually, all these 35 municipalities provide only 222 acros of playgrounds and 419 acros of playfields for a total of 641 acros, which is less than 20 per cent of the desirable minimum. About 20 per cent of the existing park acroage in the 35 municipalities is in playgrounds and playfields, whereas 30 per cent is desirable. Playgrounds in the 15 municipalities having over 10,000 population, including Pittsburgh, average only an acro and a quarter in size, while playgrounds in the 20 boroughs having 5,000 to 10,000 population average only three quarters of an acro in size. The average for the 35 municipalities is only one and one tenth acros. For comparison, it should be recalled that

the desirable size of a playground is between 3 and 7 acros.

Playfields in the 15 municipalities having over 10,000 population, including Pittsburgh, average only 5 acres in size. There is a similar average for the 20 boroughs having between 5,000 and 10,000 population. It should be noted that the desirable size of a playfield ranges between 10 and 25 acres.

Neighborhood and Country Parks: Thore has been a tendency in the past for communities to over-emphasize acreage in large parks as compared with playgrounds and playfields for frequent active recreation near the homes of children and youths. It is not uncommon for large parks to constitute as much as 70 or 80 per cent of the total park acreage. Probably only 50 or 60 per cont of the desirable park acroage of a city should be made up of neighborhood and country parks. The 35 municipalities being studied should provide for their inhabitants at least 1630 acres of recreational areas in these two classifications. They do in fact provide 2415.31 acres, although the entire country park acreage is provided by the City of Pittsburgh. There is a great unfilled need in the other 34 municipalities for country parks. The average size of neighborhood parks in the 15 largest municipalities is 31 acros; the average in the 20 smaller municipalities is 13.3 acres; and the average for all 35 is 28 acres. The average size of the four country parks in Pittsburgh is 393 acres.

Total Municipal Recreational Area Requirement: A total of 3056.34 acres of parks of all kinds are provided by the 35 Allegheny County municipalities under consideration, or a ratio of one acre of park for each 355 persons. The four cities in Allegheny County provide a wide

range of park areas, from one acre for each 80 persons in Clairton, to one acre for each 3000 persons in Duquesne. Pittsburgh is near the average for the 35 municipalities, with one acre for each 333 persons. On the basis of one acre of park for each 100 persons, these 35 municipalities should have 10,855 acres of parks, or an additional 7800 acres.

County Recreational Area Requirement: The entire population of the County, however, needs recreational areas and facilities including three hundred twenty six thousand rural farm, rural non-farm, and small belough residents. The total minimum park requirement for the whole county is 14,115 acres. The 35 municipalities having populations in excess of 5000 persons should provide 10,855 of these park acres for their residents. Therefore, 3,260 acres should be provided for the smaller beloughs, townships and school districts. Reference to Table I will show that even the communities of 5 to 10 thousand population are meeting their park requirements inadequately, for they provide only one acre of park for each 785 persons.

Allegheny County has taken the progressive step of establishing North and South Parks with a total of 4245 acros. These two parks meet an obvious need, as shown by the attendance which runs in some years as high as 4,500,000. As proviously described, these areas are so heavily patronized that they are being excessively worn. Further development would be made at the expense of the natural areas. It seems probable that a new site in some other cardinal direction should be developed.

<sup>---</sup>

TABLE I

RECREATIONAL AREAS IN ALLEGHEMY COUNTY

Municipally Owned Areas Including School Grounds

LOCATION	1940	PLAYG	PLAYGROUNDS	PLAYF	PLAYFIELDS	NEIGHB	NEI CHBORHOOD	COUPLIN	Y PARK	To	TOTALS
	POP.	NO.	ACRES	NO.	ACRES	NO.	ACRES	NO.	ACRES	NO.	ACRES
Pittsburgh	671,659	127	146,87	49	144,48	7.5	325.04	4:	1571.64	194	2,188,03
McKeesport	55,355	7	4.46	ಬ	12,00	ະດ	192,00			13	208.46
Wilkinsburg	29,853	Ω	2,50	03	34.50	8		1		4	37,00
Duquesne	20,693	8	4.00	-1	2,90	0		•		¥	06-9
Homestead	19,041	Q	1,30	-	00.9	F	2,00			4	9.30
Breddock	18,326	Ŋ	2. 42	-	1.60					9	4.02
MoKees Rocke	17,021	23	6.60	Н	11,80	ı		1	·	4	0.31
Clairton	16,381	4	17.88	, -1	18,89	03	167,00	8		~	202
Swissvale	15,919	ເດ	3.70	ı		1				ಬ	3.70
North Braddock	15,679	Q	.75	c/3	13.50	ı		i		4	14,25
Wunhall	13,900	9	5.00		30,00		2,00	1		ω	38.00
Dormont	12,974		09.0	~	35,00	4	28,00	B		ಬ	63.60
Carnegie	12,663			<u></u>	8,00	r1	30.00	1		R	38.00
Correpolis	11,086	53	2,20	8			25,00	1		4	27:20
Bellevue	10,488	r=4	2.00		4.60	ç(	5.00	4		n	11,60
Subtotal - over 10,000 Population Communities	941,038	174	200,28	65	323.27	255	777.04	4	1,571.64	268	2572,23



# TABLE I (Continued) RECRETERAL AREAS IN ALL WRITH COUNTY

LOCATION	1940	PLAY	GROUND	PLAYF	PLAYPIELD	MEIGHE	MEIGHBURHOOD	COUNTRY PARK	PARK	TOT	TOTAL.
	POP.	NO.	NO. ACRES	NO.	ACRES	FO.	ACHES	NO.	ACR7S	30.	SZU2Y
Tarentum	9946	4	2,05	7	4.30					8	6.55
Turtle Creek	9805	1	0.80	-	2,00			1		043	03°3
Classport	8748	ş		-	6.70			،		~	5.70
Jest Miffilm	9696	7	3.30	,	17.40			6		0	20,70
Sharpsburg	8202	03	1.10			-		١		0.8	1.10
Millrele	7811	1		~	18 00	1		-			12,00
Brentwood	7552	N3	2,40	¢	1	*	30,00	٠		67	32,40
Ropkin	2470	rt	0,50	,	1	•				-	0.50
Stra	7223	rs.	1,12	œ	8,00	t		,		7	9,12
West View	7215	n)	*6*	-	7,50	1		ŀ		n	8.14
Crafton	7163	7	3057	7	6,00	1				10	7.57
Et. Oliver	6981	N	3,30	-	3,70	0		,		173	\$.00
Brackenri dee	6400	10	1,50		2	×	3,00	,		4	4,50
Pitesim	6310	27	1,80		1	8				83	1,80
Osimont	6260	61	2.40	23	10.00	1	,	٠		4	12,40
Avelon	6155	٦	3,50	~	4.00	7	9.40	s		87	14.90
Bast Pattaburgh	8078	1		1	2.50	1		t		-	2,30
Killearding	2999	è	1	eq.	8.00			,		02	8.00
Sowiekley	5014	г	0.60	7	4.40	7	1,0	1		17	00-9
Forest Hills	5248	8	de			7	23,83	ė		**	23.23
Subtotel-5,000 %0	346,130	s	21.73	9	1547	20	68.63	ı		90	184,111
Grand Total	1,085,478,805		222,06	88	418,87 20	&	843,67	*	1571,64 524		5,056,34

WANT	200 0000000		The state of the s
	MANAZIOII	11815	AUS. S
Borth Park	Allaghany County	Country	2860.00
Senta - Park	Allaghany County	Country	1985,00
Total			A DAM OF

	•	

#### Recreational Areas in Beaver County

Table II shows the number and area of playgrounds, playfields, neighborhood and country parks which serve the 8 municipalities of Beaver County having populations in excess of 5,000 persons. Beaver Falls is the only city in the County and the boroughs of Aliquippa and Ambridge are both larger than the city. The three boroughs of Beaver, Monaca and Rochester constitute a single urban area at the confluence of the Beaver with the Ohio River. New Brighton and Beaver Falls constitute another urban area, separated only by the Beaver River.

Playgrounds and Playfields: The 8 municipalities of Beaver County having populations in excess of 5,000 should provide about 120 acres of playground and 180 acres of playfield for the total of 300 acres desirable according to minimum standards. Actually, these 8 municipalities provide only 61 acres of playgrounds and 30.7 acres of playfields, for a total of 91.7 acres - only 30 per cent of the desirable minimum. As in Allegheny County, about 20 per cent of the existing park acreage is in playgrounds and playfields, instead of the desirable 30 per cent. Playgrounds in the 3 municipalities having populations over 10,000 average 2.35 acres each, while those in the boroughs having from 5 to 10 thousand population average only 8 acres each. The average size playground for all eight of the communities is less than 2 acres.

Playfields in the 3 municipalities exceeding 10,000 population, and in the 5 boroughs having between 5 and 10 thousand population, average slightly over 5 acres each.



Neighborhood and Country Parks: There are 17 neighborhood parks in Beaver County containing 91.5 acres, making an average size of 5.4 acres. There are 4 country parks containing 260 acres, making an average size 65 acres. Neighborhood parks constitute 20.6 per cent of the total existing park acreage for these 8 municipalities, and country parks constitute 58.7 per cent. The 8 municipalities should provide at least 500 acres of neighborhood and country parks. They are meeting 70 per cent of that need.

Total Municipal Recreational Area Requirement: A total of 433.2 acres of parks of all kinds are provided by the 8 Beaver County municipalities having populations in excess of 5000. The ratio of existing park acreage to population is one acre to 184 persons in the 3 larger communities and one acre to 362 persons in the 5 smaller communities, which averages one acre to 224 persons for all eight communities. There is a range of park acreage of from two acres in New Brighton with an average of only one acre of park to each 4815 persons, to 182 acres in Ambridge which just meets the ratio of one acre of park to each 100 persons.

County Recreational Area Requirement: There are some 57 thousand

Beaver County rural farm, rural non-farm, and small berough residents

for whom recreational opportunities are not provided. The total

minimum park requirement for the County as a whole is 1568 acres

of all kinds of parks. The 8 municipalities having populations of

over 5000 should provide 992 acres of parks for their population.

There should be provided, therefore, for the 19 small berough, rural

farm and rural non-farm population of the County at least 576 acres of

parks in all classifications. Aside from potential areas at schools

and elsewhere in the smaller communities to meet existing needs,
Beaver County is fortunate in having excellent potential country
park sites on Brady's Run and at Raccoon Creek Recreational
Demonstration Area.



### TABLE II

## RECREATIONAL AREAS IN BEAVER COUNTY

# MUNICIPALLY OWNED AREAS INCLUDING SCHOOL GROUNDS

a 27,023 12 21.0 - 12.0 1 2.0	LOCATION	1940	PLAYGROUND	ROUND	PLAYF	TELD	NEIGHBORHOOD	RHOOD	COUNT	COUNTRY PARK		TOTAL
ge 18,968 6 5.0 2 12.0 - 1 2 2 1 2.0 - 1 2 2 1 2.0 - 1 2 2 1 2.0 - 1 2.0 - 1 2.0 - 1 2.0 - 1 2.0 - 1 2.0 - 1 2.0 - 1 2.0 - 1 2.0 - 1 2.0 - 1 2.0 - 1 2.0 - 1 2.0 - 1 2.0 - 1 2.0 - 1 2.0 - 1 2.0		POP.	NO.	ACRES			NO.	ACRES	NO.	ACRES	NO.	ACRES
Falls 17,098 5 28.0 1 3.5 1  Falls 17,098 5 28.0 1 3.5 1  Ighton 9,630 1 2.0	liquippa	27,023	22	21.0	1		П	25.0	1		13	46.0
Falls       17,098       5       28.0       1       3.5       1         unities       60.00       63,089       23       54.0       3       15.5       2         ighton       9,650       1       2.0       -       -       -       -         ter       7,441       2       1.0       1       2.5       1         d       6,372       2       2.0       -       1.5       4       1         d       6,641       1       1.5       1       11.2       9       4         otal-5,000 to       6       7.0       3       15.2       15       6	mbridge	18,968	9	5.0	CS.	12.0	8		н	165.0	0	182.0
otal stile       63,089       23       54.0       3       15.5       2         ighton       9,630       1       2.0       -       -       -       -         ter       7,441       2       1.0       1       2.5       1         d       7,061       3       0.5       1       1.5       4         d       6,372       2       2.0       -       -       1         otal-5,000 to       5,641       1       1.5       1       11.2       9         Communities       36.145       9       7.0       3       15.2       15	eaver Falls	17,098	ب س	28.0	rd	ຜູກ	1	2.0	es.	82.0	O	115.5
ter 7,441 2 1.0 1 2.5 1  ter 7,441 2 1.0 1 2.5 1  d 6,372 2 2.0 1  otal-5,000 to 6,372 3 2.0 3 15.2 15	Subtotal # 10,000 +	63,089	233	54.0	ಣ	15,5	es	27.0	ы	247.0	31	343.5
ter 7,441 2 1.0 1 2.5 1  7,061 3 0.5 1 1.5 4  d 6,372 2 2.0 1  otal-5,000 to 6,372 3 2.145 9 7.0 3 15.2 15	ew Brighton	9,630	-1	2.0	1	•		8	ı		П	2.0
d 6,372 2 2.0 1 otal-5,000 to Communities 36,145 9 7.0 3 15.2 15	ochester	7,441	હ્ય	1,0	-	10°	г	3.7	П	13.0	က	20.2
tal-5,000 to Communities 36.145 9 7.0 3 15.2 15	onaca	7,061	ю	0.5	-	1.5	4	12.0	1	i	ω	14.0
otal-5,000 to Communities 36,145 9 7.0 3 15.2 15	1dland	6,372	63	2.0		8	П	6.5		8	60	8
communities 36.145 9 7.0 3 15.2 15	ARVOL	5,641	1	1.5	1	11.2	6	42.3	1	1	11	55.0
	Subtotal-5,000 to	36,145	Ø	7.0	ĸ	15.2	15	64.5	F-1	13.0	28	66 7
Grand Total 99,234 32 61.0 6 50.7 17 91.		99,234	32	61.0	0	30.7	17	91.5	4	260.0	59	443.2

### FEDERALLY OWNED AREA

		T	TOTAL
16CATTON	COUNTRY PARKS AND ORGANIZED CAMPS	NO.	ACRES
Raccoon Creek	Public Use Areas	1	1000
Recreational Demonstration	Organized Camp Area	1	4034
Area	TOTAL	-	5034

	*		

### Recreational Areas in Washington County

Table III shows the number and area of playgrounds, playfields, neighborhood and country parks which serve the 6 municipalities of Washington County having populations in excess of
5,000 persons. Washington and Monongahela are the only cities
in the County.

Playgrounds and Playfields: The 6 municipalities of Washington County having populations in excess of 5000 should provide about 95 acres of playgrounds and 140 acres of playfields for the total of 235 acres desirable according to minimum standards. Actually, these 6 municipalities provide only  $22\frac{1}{2}$  acres of playgrounds and  $31\frac{1}{2}$  acres of playfields for a total of 54 acres - only 23 percent of the desirable minimum. Only  $18\frac{1}{2}$  per cent of the existing park acreage is in playgrounds and playfields, instead of the desirable 30 per cent. Playgrounds in the 4 municipalities of ever 10,000 per average only 1.4 acres each, and the average size for 11 playgrounds in all 6 communities is only 2 acres.

The four playfields in the four municipalities of over 10,000 population average 8 acres in size. There are no playfields reported in the two communities having between 5 and 10 thousand populations.

Neighborhood and Country Parks: There are only 5 neighborhood parks and only one country park in Washington County. The average size of neighborhood parks is 22 acres. The one country park contains 125 acres. Although neighborhood and country parks constitute  $81\frac{1}{2}$  per cent of the existing park acreage, they meet only 60 per cent of the desirable minimum requirement in these classifications.

" , ' şt 

, 

• 1 1

317

the second of th . . 

Total Municipal Recreational Area Requirement: A total of 289.45 acres of parks of all kinds are provided by the 6 Washington County Municipalities under consideration. The ratio of existing park acreage to population is one acre to 270 persons. The ratio in Washington City is one acre to 304 persons. No recreational areas of any kind are reported in Centerville, although the borough should have about 65 acres of parks and playgrounds.

County Recreational Area Requirement: There are 133 thousand residents of Washington County living in communities of less than 5000 population, or who are rural farm, or rural non-farm residents. Recreational opportunities should be available for these non-urban citizens. The minimum park requirement for the County as a whole is 2100 acres of parks, of which some 780 acres should be provided by the 6 municipalities under consideration, leaving 1320 acres to be provided for the 26 small boroughs and rural communities.

It is understood that Washington County owns a tract of land suitable for recreational development and use at the old fair grounds known as Arden Downs. The tract is only a few miles north of Washington and it apparently would fill an important need for a country park.

Raccoon Creek Recreational Area is only 25 miles from Washington(City) and is, therefore, Within day use travel distance.

TABLE III

RECREATIONAL AREAS IN WASHINGTON COUNTY

MUNICIPALIX OWNED AREAS INCLUDING SCHOOL GROUNDS

- LOCATION	1940	PLAY	PLAYGROUMDS	PLAYFISTDS	TREDS	NEIGUBORHOOD	PRHOOD	COUNT	COUNTRY PARK	TOT	TOTALS
	POP.	NO	ACRES	FiO	ACRES	NO.	ACRIS	No.	ACHIS	NO.	ACTIES
Washington	26,166	ы	3.0	F	3.0	-	0.08.			co.	86.0
Donora	13,180	4	6.5	H	7.0		1.3	7	125.0	2	139.8
Canonsburg	12,599	1			10.5	7	28.0	•		જ	38.5
Charlerot	10,784	٦	2.0	7	11.0	1		ş		જ	13.0
Subtotels-10,000 + Communities	62,729	ස	11,5	4	31,5	ಣ	109.3	H	125.0	16	277.3
Monongahela	8,825	27	10,95			-	ಬ	1		4	12,15
Centerville	6.317	1		1		ı		å		1	
Subtotal 5,000 to	15,142	23	10.95				ಜ•t	1		4	12,15
Grand Total	77,871		22,45	4	31.5	ស	110,5	-1	125.0	20	289,45



SUMMARY TABLE

RECREATION AREAS IN ALLICHENY, BRAVER AND WASHINGTON COUPTIES

# A- Municipally Owned Areas including School Grounds

	40 Munic PLAYGROUND	PLAYG	ROUND	PLAYFIELD	THID	WEIGEBORHOOD	COHHOOD	COU! T	COULTRY PARK	T	TOTALS
COUNTY	Pop 5000+ NO.	NO.	ACRES	NO.	ACRES	NO.	ACRES	MC.	ACNES	NO	ACNUS
Allegheny	1,085,476 205	205	222.06	85	418,97	30	843.67	4	1,571.64	324	3,056,34
Вевтог	99,234	32	81.00	စ	30.70	17	91.50	す	260.00	59	443.20
Washington	77,871	11	22.45	4	31,50	4	110.50	-	125.00	20	289,45
TOTALS	1,262,581 248	248	305,51	95	481.17	27	1,045.67	6	1,956,64	403	3,788.99

## B- Courty and Federally Owned Areas

Allegheny	Country Park North Park	, <del></del>	2,260.00	ਜ਼ਿਜ	2,260.00
Вевтег	1 -24	н	1,000.00	-	1,000.00
	Organized Camp Area-Raccoon Creek Recreational Demon- atration Area				4.034.00
TOTALS		4	5 245 00	4	9.279.00
GRAND TOTAL		13	7,201.64	407	407 13,067.99



### Summary

This Table shows the number and area of playgrounds, playfields, neighborhood and country parks which serve the 49 cities
and boroughs of Allegheny, Beaver and Washington Counties having
populations in excess of 5,000 persons. The Table also shows
a summary of the number and area of recreational areas in the
various classifications for the tri-county area.

Tri-County Playgrounds and Playfields: The 49 municipalities should provide about 1515 acros of playgrounds and 2275 acros of playfields for the total of 3790 acros desirable according to minimum standards. Actually, these 49 municipalities provide only 305.5 acros of playgrounds, and 481 acros of playfields for a total of 786.5 acros - less than 21 per cent of the desirable minimum. It is noteworthy that the total acros of existing parks in the three counties are just equal to the desirable minimum acros of playgrounds and playfields. These two classifications should constitute only 30 per cent of the total park acroage.

Tri-County Neighborhood and Country Parks: Neighborhood parks in the 49 municipalities total 1045.67 acros, having an average size of about 21 acros. These 51 parks constitute  $27\frac{1}{2}$  per cent of the total existing park acrosse in the municipalities under consideration. Country parks serving the 49 municipalities total 1956.64 acros. Their average size is 217.4 acros, and they constitute  $51\frac{1}{2}$  per cent of the total existing park acrosse. Neighborhood and country parks should total at least 6300 acros for these 49 municipalities. The total

- 1

of existing parks in these two classifications is 3002.3 acres.

Total Tri-County Municipal Recreational Areas: The total existing park acreage in all classifications for the 49 municipalities is 3788.99. As has been noted above, this acreage is only one third of the 12,625 acres desirable according to minimum standards, and provides only one acre of recreation area for each 333 persons.

Tri-County Recreational Area Requirements: On the basis of the 1940 population in the three counties, some 17,800 acros of recreational area should be provided therein. The 49 cities and boroughs of the three counties provide 3789 acros toward the total requirement.

Alleghony County has developed North and South Parks which include 4245 acros. There are, therefore, 8034 acros of municipal and county parks available in the three counties. A few of the 86 boroughs having loss than 5000 population have playgrounds or small parks but the total acreage is relatively insignificant. For example, the 19 boroughs of Beaver County having populations under 5000 have a total of only eight(8) acros of recreational area - loss than 1/2 acre per borough.

It is evident, therefore, that almost ten thousand additional acres of recreational area are necessary in Allegheny, Beaver and Washington Counties in order for the minimum standard of one acre of park for each 100 residents to be reached. Of this total additional acreage required, 3000 acres of playgrounds and playfields are necessary in municipalities containing over 5000 persons. The 127,868 persons in the 86 boroughs having less than 5000 population should have about 400 acres of playgrounds, of which it is estimated 350 acres would

bo additional to existing areas, making a total desirable playground and playfield acreage of 3350. Additional neighbor-hood, country and other park requirements amount, therefore, to the difference between the total additional 10,000 acres, and the additional 3350 acres of playground and playfield. The difference would be 6650 acres. Additional country park requirements are, therefore, about 4500 acres.

Various potential country parks exist in or near the tri-county area. A potential country park which would be of great benefit to the lower Beaver Valley Communities is Brady's Run.

A potential country park which would serve the Washington - Canonsburg area is the old fair grounds known as Arden Downs.

As proviously discussed, North and South Parks are being used excessively, and expansion is under consideration. The Greater Pittsburgh Parks Association is taking steps to acquire the McConnell's Mills Area in Lawrence County, which is essentially a reservation of scenic values and not a country park. The Raccoon Creek Recreational Demonstration Area is, however, an excellent potential country park for all the people of Allegheny, Beaver and Washington Counties.

The Raccoon Creek Domonstration Area is only 27 miles from down-town Pittsburgh over the existing Federal highways 22 and 30; 25 miles for Washington (City) over State Highway No. 18; and 15 miles from the Beaver, Rochester, Monaca urban center in Beaver County over State Highway No. 18. One thousand acres of the 5034 acre area have been designated for public day use development by the National Park Service.

en a de la companya d

.

\$

,

1

A completed General Development Plan defines the different areas and their uses in accordance with country park standards. The areas have been studied for swimming, picnicking, overnight camping, hiking, archory, pageants, etc. It appears that this area is well situated in relation to the congested urban population of the three counties and in relation to major highways. In addition thereto, the area contains an attractive wooded valley with an unpolluted stream and a good dam site. The plateau areas on each side of the valley have extensive open areas suitable for recreation by large groups of people.

In addition to the potential public use area the 4034 acre organized camp area contains three developed organized camps which are in constant demand and use during the camping season. Reference to Table IV will show the volume of camping activity by residents of the three counties.

### Organized Camping in the Three Counties

Thirty-six resident camps reported by the Federation of Social Agencies of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County served 17,270 campers during the 1944 season. The average stay was  $10\frac{1}{2}$  days, except in the case of a camp for crippled children, which served 15 Allegheny County residents for an average of 50 days each. About one person out of 82 in Allegheny County attended resident camps in 1944 and one out of each 15 children between the ages of 7 and 17 attended camps. The average resident camp capacity of the 36 camps is 95 persons. The 16 day camps served a total of 2,665 persons. The 5 organizations spensoring short-term camping served more than 24,000 campers between January 1 and October 1. Troop camping for six days or more during the same nine-month period was provided for 35,000 campers.

,

Attendance at summer camps in 1944 was 12 per cent higher than during the summer of 1943. Resident camp attendance was composed of 42 per cent boys, 38 per cent girls and 20 per cent adults. Camp occupancy was 90 per cent of capacity for almost half of the camps reporting and 70 to 90 per cent for about a fourth of the camps. Only one camp reported less than 50 per cent occupancy.

The zones of travel to the 36 resident camps include 10 camps within 25 miles of Pittsburgh, 9 camps located 25 to 50 miles from
Pittsburgh, 12 camps located 50 to 100 miles from Pittsburgh and 5
camps located over 100 miles from Pittsburgh.

The Federation of Social Agencies of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County reports a lack of camping facilities to serve the following needs:

- l. Camps for families who can afford around \$7 to \$10 a week.
- 2. Camps for children needing special care.
- 3. Camps offering cabins for families but also certain central administration services and programs.

a natural appeal to most youth and are important aids in the development of desirable traits of character. They have particular value in furnishing urban youth an intimate contact with nature. One of the greatest recreational achievements for any urban conter would be to make the country accessible to youth. This need can be fulfilled in some degree through adequate country parks and organized camps.



ORGANIZED CAMPS SERVING ALLECHENY, BEIVER AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES, PENTSYLVANIA,

Co -Private - Non-Profit Sponsorship

Sponsorship Name	County	Турс	Capacity
Boy Scouts - McKeesport Council	Fayette	Co	150
Home for the Friendless - Pittsburgh	Cambria	Co	45
Woods Run Settlement - Pittsburgh	Clarion	Co	36
Brasheer Association - Pittsburgh	Butler	Co	55
Penna. Soc. for Crippled Caildren - Harrisburg	Luzerne	Co	96
Emma Farm Association - Pittsburgh	Butler	Co	200
Sarah Heinz - Pittsburgh	Lawrence	Co	72
James Waldon Johnson Camp AssocPittsburgh	Beaver	Co	96
Boys Club of Pittsburgh	Butler	Co	100
Kingsley Association - Pittsburgh	Butler	Co	84
Variety Club and Pittsburgh Lyceum	Allegheny	Co	120
Pleasant Hill Farm Assoc Pittsburgh	Allegheny	Со	80
Girl Scouts of Pittsburgh and Allegheny Co.	Butler	Со	136
Boy Scouts Homewood Council	Erie ·	Co	100
Boy Scouts - East Boroughs Council	Westmorelan	đ Co	250
Boy Scouts - Allegheny Council	Allegheny	Co	200
Boy Scouts - Washington Council	Washington	Co	95
Association for Improvement of the Poor	Allegheny	Со	160
Polish Falcons of America	Butler	Со	50
Total			2125

and the second of the second o

The second secon

TABLE IV

### ORGANIZED CAMPS SERVING ALLEGHENY, BEAVER AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES, PENNSYLVANIA O Private - Religious Sponsorship

Sponsorship Name	County	Туре	Capacity
Volunteers of America - Pittsburgh	Allegheny	0	50
North Boroughs Y.M.C.A.	Fayette	0	180
Y.W.C.A Pittsburgh	Butler	0	52
Methodist Church Union - Pittsburgh	Butler	0	100
First Presbyterian Church - Pittsburgh	Westmoreland	0	168
Church of Brethern - Hooversville	Somerset	0	100
Calvary Episcopal Church - Pittsburgh	Crawford	0	128
Y.M.C.A. of Pittsburgh - Pittsburgh	Beaver	0	190
Y.M.C.A. of Pittsburgh - Pittsburgh	Somerset	0	96
Y.M. and Y.W.H.A. Pittsburgh	Somerset	0	96
Presbyteries	Clearfield	0	100
Rankin Christian Center - Rankin	Beaver	0	48
Camp Rosary Association - Pittsburgh	Somerset	0	65
The Salvation Army - Pittsburgh	Allegheny	0	100
Y.M.C.A. McKeesport	Fayette	0	100
Y.M.C.A. Allegheny - Tarentum	Venango	0	63
Y.M.C.A Washington	Washington	0	80
Y.W.C.A Washington	Washington	0	100
Baptist Associations - W. Pennsylvania	Clearfield	0	90
Methodist Annual Conference Uniontown	Fayette	0	275
Total			2181

The second of th

TABLE IV

ORGANIZED CAMPS SERVING ALLEGHENY, BEAVER AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES, PENNSYLVANIA.

PP - Private - For Profit Sponsorship

Camp Name	County	Type	Capacity
Camp Cherrio	Butler	PP	80
Camp Cussewago	Erie	PP	70
Camp Kadimah	Butler	PP	90
Camp Tecumseh	Erie	PP	50
Camp Ellwood	Lawrence	PP	120
Total		and the second s	410
Public - Non Profit Sponsorship			
North Park Camps (3)	Allegheny	C	60
GRAND TOTAL			4,366

### POTENTIAL REGIONAL PARKS

The deficiencies in recreational areas which exist in Allegheny, Beaver and Washington Counties are shown in the preceding study of existing recreational areas, and comparison is made thereof with minimum standards. While it was not within the scope of this study to make recommendations regarding specific park sites, it is thought that a brief discussion of potential parks which have county and regional significance is in order.

### McConnoll's Mills

### Introduction

A potential country park which has been known and visited for many years because of its outstanding scenery is the area known as McConnell's Mills. For many years, efforts have been made to bring the scenic gorge of Slippery Rock Crook, south of Federal Highway No. 422 under public control. After many futile attempts, it now appears that the Greater Pittsburgh Parks Association will acquire the tract, for options have been taken on 117 acros of the site.

### Location

McConnoll's Mills is in Slippery Rock and Porry Townships on the southern edge of Lawrence County. It is accessible to the Pittsburgh population by means of the Perry Highway U. S. No.19, being 43 miles from the Triangle in Pittsburgh. The name of the area derives from the grist mill and crib dam at a covered bridge crossing of Slippery Rock Creek.

.

•

.

4

.

### Topography

The picturesque portion of Slippery Rock Creek marks the beginning of the unglaciated portion of the Creek. A short distance northward, the valley is wide and open and shows results of glaciation. The portion of the Creek included in the optioned area is a rocky, precipitous gorge. The water cascades over and around huge rectangular boulders which would weigh hundreds of tons, and which appear to have been strewn about by a giant.

### Scenic Values

The steep, often cliff-like, side slopes of the gorge are covered with a forest of huge hemlock, oak, beech, maple and dogwood trees, and many other interesting forms of plant life.

The hills are so steep, the cover so dense and the Creek and rocks so spectacular, that the nearby world of industry and agriculture is easily forgotten.

The McConnell's Mills area is not adaptable to organized recreation such as camping and swimming. It is ideal, however, for nature study, hiking and fishing. Picnicking areas should be provided as necessary to accommodate the crowds who visit the area during the summer, and access roads and parking areas should be improved.

### Arden Downs

A site which is a potential Washington County park is the old fair grounds known as Arden Downs. This area is located a few miles north of Washington at Arden Station on the Pennsylvania Rail-road. The area contains about 200 acres and belongs to the Washington County Institutional District. The old fair ground is now used as a

### 

rifle range. An additional 75 to 100 acres adjoining the fair ground are available from the City of Washington if the areas are developed for recreational use.

### Brady's Run

Available information indicates that Beaver County has some excellent potential country parks. One of the best of these both from the standpoint of scenic value and adjacency to urban population is Brady's Run. The site contains 1700 acres of wooded hillsides, with the picturesque Brady's Run flowing through the valley. The area is situated within less than five miles of an urban population of 60,000, including Beaver Falls, New Brighton, Beaver, Monaca and Rochester. It is situated west of State Highway No. 54 which parallels the Beaver River near the mouth thereof. The scenic values, the location in relation to urban areas, and the needs are so obvious that acquisition and development seem inevitable.

### Ruccoon Creek Recreational Demonstration Area

### Location and Area

The Raccoon Creek Recreational Demonstration Area has regional significance for the entire upper Ohio River Valley from Pittsburgh, Aliquippa, Ambridge, Rochester and Beaver, on down the river to East Liverpool and Steubenville, Ohio.

This area is located in the southwest portion of Beaver County, and contains 5034 acres. It is divided north and south by State Highway No. 18. The area west of the highway contains about 4000 acres and is devoted to the special use of organized camping. The area east of the highway contains 1000 acres, and has been planned for public day use.

. - '.. -

.

----

Electric terms of the first

### Day Use Area

The day use portion of the area is less developed than is the organized camp area. The National Park Service long-range master plan includes proposals for extensive development of swimming, picnicking, hiking and overnight camping facilities as needs are demonstrated. The facility requirements have been estimated on the basis of a normal peak load of 5,000 persons at any one time.

The proposed day use area is in three topographic divisions, namely - the lower Traverse Creek valley, the small plateau area northwest of the proposed lake, and the large plateau area south of the proposed lake. It is proposed to construct a dam in lower Traverse Creek valley near the eastern property line to impound a 10-acre lake. Parking areas will be made available nearby. Picnic sites on the old terraces on the wooded hillside are proposed. The small plateau area northwest of the proposed lake is suitable for development for family camping. Group picnic areas and facilities are proposed for development on the plateau south of the proposed Traverse Creek lake.

### Trend of Urban Growth

As has been noted previously, the increase in population in Allegheny County during the 1930-40 decade occurred entirely outside the City of Pittsburgh. Almost all the outlying sections of the County showed an increase in population, with the greatest increases south and east of Pittsburgh. Inasmuch as there is an abundance of desirable area suitable for development within the county, there is every reason to believe that further expansion into rural areas will continue as improvement in transportation facilities is provided.

•

And the second of the second o

Deficiencies in highway alignment, width, and access features have seriously retarded development in the southwest portion of the County. These deficiencies will be largely overcome by the proposed Penn-Lincoln limited access highway extension west from Pittsburgh. In addition, the large, new Moon Township airport which is located 15 miles from the Triangle and adjacent to the proposed interregional highway will stimulate development west of Pittsburgh.

In view of the increase in population which may be expected west of Pittsburgh due to the proposed Penn-Lincoln extension, and development of the new Moon Township Airport; in view of the fact that both North and South Parks have been overcrowded for some years; and in view of country park needs in both Beaver and Washington counties, as well as in Allegheny County, it is apparent that new park facilities should be developed west of Pittsburgh. Raccoon Creek Recreational Area will be only 25 miles from downtown Pittsburgh over the proposed Penn-Lincoln extension, and the driving time will be little more than one half hour. Furthermore, the 9-mile section of the Penn-Lincoln Parkway eastward from the Triangle will make east-west travel practical for residents on the east side of Pittsburgh. The Raccoon Creek area is also readily accessible to the people of Washington County over State Highway No.18. The City of Washington is only 25 miles from the park. Raccoon Creek is also readily accessible to the people of Beaver Valley, over Highway No. 18. Rochestor and Beaver being only 15 miles therefrom. There are many potential park patrons in the more than three million people who live within 50 miles of Raccoon Creek.

In keeping with the principle of selecting recreational demonstration areas so as to be readily accessible to congested centers of urban population as previously described in the section of this report on the History of Parks and Recreation. Raccoon Creck lies within a radius of 50 miles from the following municipalities: Aliquippa, Ambridge, Beaver Falls, Beaver, New Castle, Pittsburgh, Washington (Pa), Weirton, W. Va., Steubenville, East Liverpool and Youngstown, Ohio. The population within 25 miles of the area is a million and a half, and within 50 miles of the area the population is over three million.

### Topography

The topography of the area is that of a rolling plateau, having elevations 1200 feet above sea level. The plateau is cut from west to east by Big Traverse Creek and its tributaries. This stream in not polluted, and is suitable, therefore, for recreational and restocking purposes. The land was classed as submarginal when purchased by the Federal government some ten years ago. The plateau areas were formerly farmed but in recent years many farms were abandoned, and a pioneer growth of crab apple, hawthorne and wild cherry has developed. The valley slopes and bottoms, where farming, logging and mine propeutting were uneconomical, are forested with some mature stands of oak, hemlock and maple trees. It would be unrealistic to claim unusual scenic merit for the area, although its land is well adopted to organized camping and day use recreation.

### Organized Camp Facilities

Three organized camps have been built on the Raccoon Creek area. Two of these camps provide facilities for 96 campers each

and a staff. The third camp provides facilities for 48 campers and a staff. Additional camping facilities are available in an abandoned CCC Camp, the layout of which was designed for future organized camp use. Swimming is provided for all campers in the 12 acre lake which has been impounded on Traverse Creek. A number of additional sites are available for small camps as the needs are demonstrated.

Each of the existing camps is designed on the modern principle of small unit groups, each separated from the others, but related to the central administrative headquarters. The camp structures are arranged informally, taking advantage of topographic and forest cover conditions. The camps are all served by water and sewer systems.

### Organized Camp Use

The existing camps have been in operation for several seasons and are in constant demand. The organizations which used the Raccoon Creek camps for resident camping during the past year were The James Weldon Johnson Association of Pittsburgh, The Akron-Centon - Youngstown Tri-City Jewish Camp, and The Rankin Christian Center of Pittsburgh. The latter organization used the two unit camp. Camps are allocated with due consideration to recommendations made by the camp advisory committee of the Federation of Social Agencies of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County.

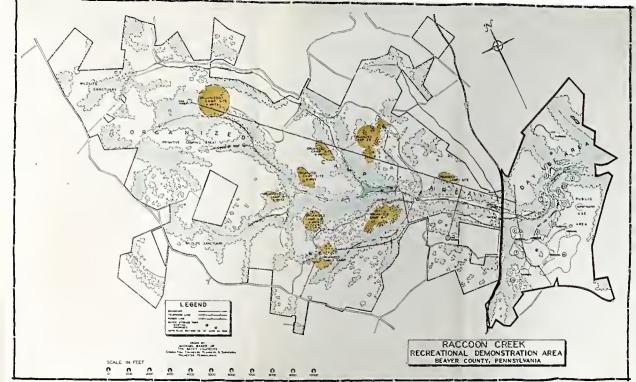
The number of camper days for the fiscal year ending June 30,1944 were as follows:

Seasonal 16,048

Intermediate 2,058

Short Term 1,167

In accordance with agreements made between the Federal Government and the Department of Forests and Waters acting as park authority at the time of creation of the Recreational Demonstration Areas, Raccoon Creek area is available in part or whole for transfer to the Commonwealth.





# RECREATION

A DIGEST OF

# PENNSYLVANIA LAWS

PERTAINING TO

PUBLIC RECREATION

THE STATE PLANNING BOARD

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

### DIGEST OF RECREATION ENABLING LEGISLAND

NATURE OF ENACTMENTS

THIRD CLASS CITIES Act 317, enacted 1931

Section

PLAN OF PARKS & PLAY-GROUNDS 3701 Every city shall have a general plan of its parke and playgrounde

ACQUISITION OF LANDS AND BUILD-INGS

3703 Citiee may acquire lands, property and buildings for the purpose of establishing and maintaining public parks, parkways, playgrounds, playfields, gymnasiums, public bathe, ewimming poole or indoor recreation

CREATION OF RECREATION BOARD

3704 This section provides for supervising, equipping and maintaining public recreation areas and facilities through any existing body or through a Recreation Board. Recreation leaders may be employed by such board as needed

COMPOSITION OF BOARD

3705 A recreation board, when established, shall consist of five persons. Two of the membere shall be membere of the school board. Members shall be appointed by the Mayor to serve for terme of five yeare. Members of the board serve without pay. Women are eligible for appointment.

ORGANIZATION OF BOARD

**EMPLOYEES** 

3706 The recreation board elects its own officers to serve for one year. The board may employ persons as authorized in this act.

JOINT OWNER-SHIP AND MAINTENANCE

3707 Citiee may join with boroughs and townships in acquiring property for and operate and maintain recreation areas and facilitiee. Any city may also join with any school district in equipping operating and maintaining recreation areas and facilities and may appropriate money therefor.

ISSUE OF BONDS

3708 The city council may issue bonds for the purpose of acquiring lands or buildings for parks, playgrounds, gymnasiums, swimming pools, public bathe, or indoor recreation centere, and for the equipment thereof.

MATNTEN-ANCE AND TAX LEVY 3709 All expenses incurred in the operation of the public recreation facilities and program shall be payable from the treasury of the city. A special tax, not to exceed two mills on the dollar of the taxable property in the city, may be levied for this purpose.

BOROUGHS Act 336, enacted 1927

Section

2717 Every borough shall have a general plan of its parks and playgrounds.

2701 Boroughs may separately or jointly acquire property and buildings for 2702 the purpose of making, enlarging and maintaining public parks, parkways, playsrounds, playfields, gymnasiums, public baths, ewimming pools or indoor recreation centers.

2719 The authority to supervise and main ain public recreation areas and facilities may be vested in any existing body or board, or in a recreation board. Recreation leaders may be employed by such board as needed.

2720 A recreation board, if established in a borough, shall consist of five persone, two of whom shall be members of the achool board. Members shall be appointed by the Burgess to serve for terms of five years. Members serve without pay. Women are eligible for apointment.

2721 The recreation board elects ite own officers to earve for one year. ·Persons may be employed by the board as suthorized in this act.

2722 Any two or more boroughs, or borough with any city, or borough with a county, may jointly acquire property for, and operate and maintain public recreation areas and facilities and appropriate money therefor.

2723 The borough council may issue bonds for the purpose of acquiring lande or buildings for parks, playgrounds, gymnasiume, ewimming pools, public baths or indoor recreation centers and for the equipment thereof.

2724 All expenses incurred in the operation of public recreation facilities and activities shall be payable from the tressury of the borough or boroughs, city, county or school district in accordance with any joint agreement. A tax not to exceed two mills on the dollar of the taxable property in such borough or school district may be levied for this purpose.

COUNTIES - 2nd to 8th clasi Act 447, enacted 1929

Saction

663 County Commissioners have govern, manage, lay out, plan ment public parks, golf coure, grounds, etc.

650 County Commissioners of and may designate, set apart or a lands and buildings for use a parkways, playgrounde, playfi gymnasiums, public baths, ewil pools or indoor recreation ce

651 The County Commissioners m a park or recreation board. empowered to equip, operate a tain public recreation areas ities. Persons may be employ and direct recreation activity needed.

652 The County Commissioners I a park or recreation board. established euch a board shal of five members to be appoint commissioners for terms of fi Members serve without pay. We eligible for appointment.

653 The park or recreation bos its own officers to serve for With the consent and approval commissioners, persons may be as authorized in this act.

654 Counties may join with any county, any city, borough, to or school dietrict in acquiri erty for maintaining and open recreation ereas and faciliti

655 The County Commissioner ms bends for the purpose of acqui lands or buildings for parks, grounds, gymnaeiums, ewimming public baths, or indoor recre ters, and for the equipment 1

656 All expensee incident to t tion of the public recreation ities and activities establis the county commissioners, sha able from the treasury of the A special tax not to exceed i on the dollar of taxable proj euch county, may be levied for purpose

The School Code also states that public school ouildings, equipment and resources may be used to provide recreation activities is contained in Bulletin 290, which can be secured from the Department of Public Instruction, Education Building, Harrisby

### N -- COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA 1944

nc.

TOWNSHIPS - First Class Act 331, enscted 1931

Saction

er to or ornaplay-

No Lagialation

county nire parks, ls, ing

appoint
y are
mainl facilto plan
s as

appoint onsist by the years.

elects ne year. f ths nployed

ther ship proping

issus
ing
laycols,
ion cen-

opsraacili through
be paypunty.
mills
ty in
this

3001 Townships may dedicate, set apart
lands or acquire property for the purpose of making, enlarging and main-

taining public parks, parkways, playgrounds, playfisloe, gymnasiums, public baths, swimming pools, or indoor recreation centers.

3009 The authority to supervise and maintain public recreation areas, facilities and activities may be vested in any existing body or board or in a park board or recreation board as the township commissioners may determine. Recreation leaders may be smployed as such a board as needed.

ation board, when established, shall consist of five persons, to be appointed by the township commissioners to serve for terms of five years. Wembers serve without pay. Women are eligible for appointment

3011 The park or recreation board elects
its own officers to serve for one year.
Board may employ such persons as may
be needed as authorized by this act.

2013 Townships may jointly with cities, counties, boroughs, other townships of sither class, or any combination or number of such units, acquirs property for, operate and maintain public recreation areas and facilities.

3001 Township Commissionsrs may borrow money and issus bonds for the purpose of acquiring lands, making, enlarging and maintaining public parks, playfields, gymnasiums, swimming pools or indoor recreation centers.

3012 All expenses incurred in the operation of public recreation facilities and activities shall be payable from the treasury of such township. A special tax not to exceed two mills on the dollar of the taxable property may be levied for this purpose.

TOWNSHIPS - Second Class Act 69, enacted 1933

Section.

No Leg. slation

township may designate, set apart, or acquire for use as parks, playgrounds, playfislds: gymnasiums, public baths, swimming pools, or indoor recreation centers, land or buildings.

1902 The authority to supervise and maintain public recreation areas, facilities and activities may be vested in any sxisting body or board or in a park or recreation board as the township commissioners may determine. Recreation leaders may be employed by such a board as needed.

1903 The township park board or recreation board, when established, shall consist of five persons, to be appointed by the township commissioners to serve for terms of five years. Members serve without pay. Women are eligible for appointment.

its own officers to serve for one year.

The board may employ such persons as
may be needed as authorized by this act.

1905 Any township may, jointly with any one or more townships, boroughs and cities, acquire property for and operate and maintain public recreation areas and facilities.

1906 The township supervisors may issue bonds for the purpose of acquiring lands or buildings for parks, playgrounds, gymnasiums, swimming pools, public baths, or indoor recreation centers and for the equipment thersof.

1907 All expenses incurred in the operation of public recreation facilities and activities shall be payable from the treasury of such township. A special tax not to exceed two mills on the dollar of taxable property may be levisd for this purpose.

SCHOOL DISTRICTS
Articls XLIX
Section

No Lagislation

4901 Restates provisions
embedded in Sections 3703,
2701, 2702, 650, 3301, and
1901 of the City, Borough,
County and Township Acts.

4902 Restates provisions
embodied in Sections 3704,
2719, 651, 3309, and 1902
of the City, Borough,
County and Township Acts.

exhodied in Sections 3705, 2720, 652, 3310, and 1903 of the City, Borough, Gounty and Township Acts.

4904 Restates provisions as found in Sections 3706, 2771, 3011, and 1904 of the City, Borough, County and Township Acts.

join with any city, borough township, or county, or any complact on thereof in equipping, operating and maintaining parks and recreation facilities.

4206 Restates provisions
found in Sections 3708,
2723, 655 and 1906 of ths
City, Borough, County
and Toscship Acha.

appropriate meney for payment of expenses incurred in the operation of public recreation facilities and activities. A sescial tax not to exceed two mills on the dollar of the taxable property may be lowled for this purpose.

### RECREATION WITHIN THE LAW

Growing interest in recreation on the part of citizen groups throughout our Commonwealth is revealing a multiplicity of governmental as well as social and cultural problems. Among these heterogenous problems there has appeared one which has grown in importance, namely, the status of recreation within the lew. It appears that all modern functions which have community importance are ultimately incorporated in the law. In Pennsylvania, since as early as 1927, legislation has been enacted which resulted in recreation becoming a part of that \*body of rules--which a State or a community recognizes as binding 'its members'\*. In terms of this meaning the tendency of the time is noteworthy; recreation is becoming an established function of communities throughout Pennsylvania, and the provisions for its management are being recognized as binding.

The problem of leisure has become one of the basic considerations of our age. It is inevitable, therefore, that specialists and citizens will increase and deepen their interest in the legal provisions for public community recreation programs.

Can my city build and conduct swimming pools, or parks? Can it provide music programs, or art exhibits, or festivals? What are its legal powers? What of my county, my township, my school district? What legal power have they for carrying on recreation programs? Are we exceeding our authority? Are there powers which we want to use, but don't know exist? Can we spend tax money for general recreation? What about using school buildings and grounds after school hours?

These questions are being asked by citizens throughout our Commonwealth. They are demanding more and more recreation activities and facilities for both adults and children. As the movement for leisure time activities grows, progressive communities are developing plans to make permanent recreation programs.

These permanent programs must be fitted into the organization of governmental units; and this involve's legal questions.

In Pennsylvania recreation may be administered by any one of several governmental units separately or jointly. Such provision is embodied in the codes of the following governmental units:

Third class cities - Act 317, enacted in 1931 Boroughs - Act 336, enected in 1927 Counties of the Second to Eighth class inclusive, Act 447, snacted 1929.

Townships - first class - Act 331, enacted in 1931 Townships - second class - Act 69, enacted in 1933

Legislation, similar to that embodied in the aforementioned Acts, is found in the codes of citiss of the first and second class.

This legislation provides for recreation in general. A study of the recreation enabling legislation of Pennsylvania discloses that it includes the following significant elements:

- Provision for empowering governmental units to act.
- 2. Provision for financing.
- Provision for acquiring land areas and facilities.
- 4. Provision for conducting activities.
- Provision for employing recreation leaders, directors, supervisors and other needed personnel.
- 6. Provision for joint control.
- Provision for initiation of recreation by the people.

Typical of this legislation is the following:

"Any two or more of the following units, namely, cities of the second and third classes, counties, townships (or) and boroughs or any combination or number of such units, (city, township, or borough, or any city, township, or borough, and county.) may jointly acquire property for, and operate and maintain, any parks, playgrounds, playfields, gymnasiums, public baths, swimming pools, or indoor recreation centers. Any school district shall have the power to join with any city, borough, township, or county, or any combination thereof in equipping, operating and maintaining parks, playgrounds, playfields, gymnasiums, public baths, swimming pools, and indoor recreation centers, and may appropriate money therefor."

Individual citizens or citizen groups who desire more detailed information about Pennsylvania recreation enabling legislation should get in touch with local officials - city clerk, president or secretary of corough councils, county commissioners and township commissioners.

Inquiries can also be addressed to the Pennsylvania State Planning Board or the Legislative Reference Bureau, Harrisburg, Pa.

"DO WE CARE FNOUGH ..."

To consider the implications of leisure in the lives of our people?

To become familiar with the previsions of our State Enabling Legislation, with reference to the establishment and maintenance of public recreation?

To take advantage of this State Enabling Legislation in establishing Community Recreation Programs, - programs that will pay dividends in personal growth, in joy of living, and in the development of better human relationships and of enriched community life?

To use our school facilities for Community Recreation activities - music, crafts, physical recreation, dramatics, etc. - in ways provided by our School Code for the use of school facilities by the citizens for recreational, as well as educational purposes?

To act before it is too late to keep open the doors of opportunity for children and adults, continuing their interests in music, in art, in physical activities, in crafts encouraged during their school years? - not to close the doors of our schools to them upon graduation day?

To organize a local group of interested citizens?
To make a beginning through the utilization of existing facilities? - to transform a vacant lot into a playground? an unused store room into a library or recreation center? an unoccupied residence or abandoned school building into a community center, a boys' club or a girls' club?

To preserve America's richest heritage - her citizens, who, in the opinion of many national leaders, can determine the future of America largely through the manner in which they use their leisure time?

and

To do it now? - So your community will be able to include well considered proposals for recreational development in their Postwar Public Works Programs.

## RECREATION

A DIGEST OF

# PENNSYLVANIA LAWS

PERTAINING TO

PUBLIC RECREATION

THE STATE PLANNING BOARD

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

·

TABLE V

# ORGANIZED CAMPS LOCATED IN ALLECHENY, BEAVER AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES

MAP	CALTP NAME	COUNTY	SPONSOR
	Municipal Sponsorship		
1-c	Cemps in North Park	Allegheny	Pittsburgh Bureau of Recreation
	Private, Non-Profit Sponsorship		
1-00	Fresh Air Home	Allegheny	Assoc, for Improvement of the Poor
2-C0	Comp James Weldon Johnson	Beaver	James Weldon Johnson Camp Association
3-C0	Camp O'Connell	Allegheny	Variety Club and Pittsburgh Lyceum
4-C0	Umbstaetter Reservation	Allegheny	Boy Scouts Allegheny Council
5-00	Boy Scout Camp	Washington	Boy Scout Council, Washington
8-C0	Pleasant Hill Farm	Allegheny	Pleasent Hill Farm Association
	Private, Religious Sponsorship		
d	Cemp Ballington	Allegheny	The Volunteers of America
2.0	Camp Kon-0-Kwee,	Beaver	Y.M.C.A. Pittsburgh
O	Rankin Christlen Center	Везтег	Rankin Christian Center
Q	Salvation Army Fresh Air Cemp	Allegheny	The Salvation Army
5-0	T.M.C.A. Cemp	Washington	Y.M.C.A. Washington
8-0	Camp Carondowanna	Beaver	Y.W.C.A. Pittsburgh
0	Tri-City Baccoon Greek Comp	Beaver	Jewish Community Centers (Ohio)

Map symbols refer to Recreational Survey Map of - Allegheny, Beaver and Washington Counties. Note -

